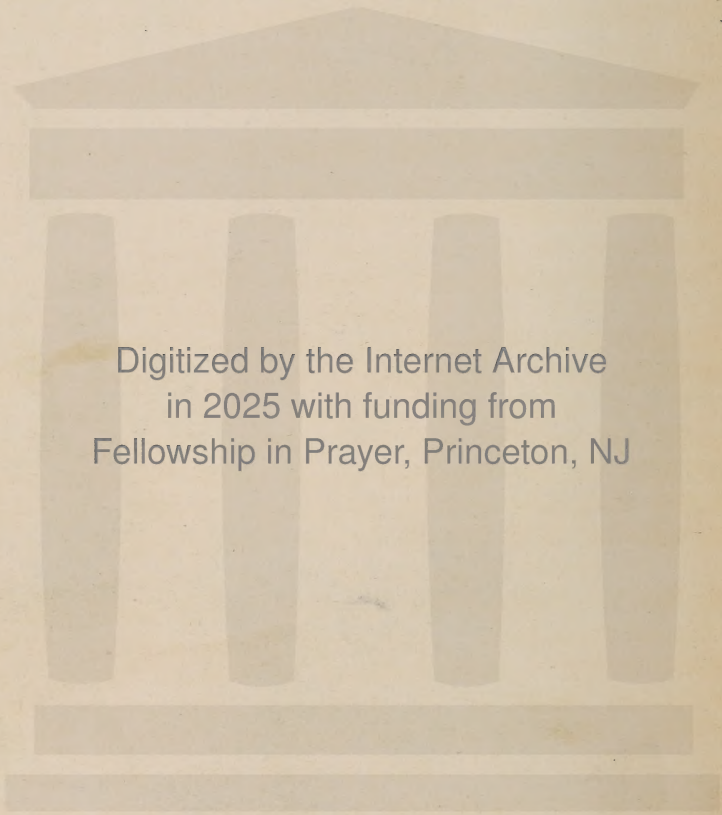
Fellowship in Prayer

"For a world united in prayer"

May the gift of God's Good Will, heralded on that first Christmas, give Strength, Courage and New Hope to All Mankind this Christmastide!

lume II December 1951 Number 6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FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER
(Incorporated)
22 East 29th Street
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Volume II December 1951 Number 6

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

The Christmas Season is approaching once again. How we especially wish this year there would come with it a rebirth of the Spirit of Christ in the hearts of all the people of the world!

"To realize this purpose--to change humanity, to triumph over evil and to honor the Father by a union never to be broken of the Father and the many sons who should be brought into glory--this was the thought which filled the mind of Jesus Christ. This is the meaning of Christmas, and as we love God with soul and mind, and strength, and prove our divine sonship by good will and kindness toward all our fellow-men, we shall realize the divine idea of our Master and unite in His blessed work."

If we, of every race and creed, would each carry with us the wonderful Spirit of Christmas throughout this year, and every year, what a transformed world it would be!

* * *

May the meaning of Christmas be deeper--
Its Friendship stronger, and its
Hopes brighter as it comes to you this Year.

-oooOooo-

J U S T I C E

"The equilibrium attained by study and application of facts as related to any well ordered society."

If we accept this as a fair definition of "Justice" then the depth of the "study" and the conscientiousness of application of "fact" - both are subject to human limitations. Thus, the integrity of the one rendering justice is of utmost importance. For these reasons the selection of judges in our trial courts should be done with supreme care.

Important as this is, we are now concerned about the individual, and how he receives and administers justice.

In our daily activities where quick decisions are required, justice based upon factual study is practically nil. Personal pressures, hearsay, prejudice and the like more often are influencing factors.

Justice is likewise often perverted by the attitudes and actions of individuals themselves. The knave does not wish to meet up with justice, and avoids it.

It naturally follows that society is largely divided into two sectors: Those whose conduct cannot stand the searching eye which seeks facts in the cause of justice, and the other side which would do justice to all men. Thus, how is it possible to be actually just?

A certain case under observation superficially reveals a fine reputation, proud demeanor, self-sufficient air and confidential manner of conversation, which dispels all doubt. Factually, integrity is lacking, falsehoods are rampant, morals are loose and the subject is a decided risk. How judge such a one?

Isn't the final analysis in religion? Isn't the facing of God the most cleansing and self-convicting experience in life, and the use of His Law the most effective?

It is Conway who states: "All religion and all ethics are summed up in justice."

Or read the following from Kossuth, "Justice is immortal, eternal and immutable, like God Himself; and the development of law is only then a progress when it is

directed toward those principles which, like Him, are eternal."

Probably the most striking pronouncement on justice is Emerson's "Compensations." People avoid reading it because of its barbed-like truth and thought provoking clarity. But it brings us face to face with reality and tells where to find justice.

It is most significant that justice is basic in all great religions, and where it is not rendered it is of man's own making.

"There is no virtue so truly godlike as Justice."

-oooOooo-

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

O God, our Father, we thank Thee that greater than the beauty of the lily, which Solomon in all his glory could not equal, and grander than ocean and Alpine range and the spacious firmament of myriad suns, is the beauty and grandeur of the home, Thy noblest creation. Beautiful, because Thou art its Creator, and ineffably grand, because Thou didst make it the cradle of Thy divinity in the living stream of human history. We thank Thee that Thy divinity didst overflow into the manger at Bethlehem, and that it is Thy purpose that Thy divinity should overflow into every cradle. For we also are Thine offspring, and we share Thy divinity when we grow up Thy true sons. We, too, are children of the King. We are glad that the Babe of Bethlehem grew into the most perfect demonstration and the most complete fulfillment of Thy lovingkindness known to human knowledge; that in Him we see Thy love at the full, and in His conduct, Thy justice. We are deeply grateful that the Spirit that created Him, the Perfect One, is Christ in us, the hope of glory. We rejoice that full cooperation of our spirits with Thy Spirit produces in us the excellence of new persons perfected in Thine image, the grandeur of a new, a loftier race, Thy kingdom now and for ever. In His name. Amen.

--Roy Wallace Thomas.

-oooOooo-

MAKE A SPIRITUAL INVENTORY

By Grenville Kleiser

What progress am I making in spiritual development? Specifically, am I growing in patience, humility, considerateness and gratitude? What faults of disposition am I overcoming? Have I a definite spiritual goal?

These and similar questions will clarify the subject and enable you to appraise more accurately your present spiritual status.

To continue the questionnaire:

Do I daily study and apply the laws and principles of God?

Do I yield my human will to the perfect Divine Will? What, really, does Christ mean to me in my daily life? Do I often stop and ask, "What would Christ do?"

Do I indulge in destructive thoughts, such as criticism, resentment, anger, pride, irritation, stubbornness, or selfishness?

A spiritual writer says, "I find it very simple to reason myself into indulging an appetite, or dodging a responsibility, or taking credit for an act, or some form of self-aggrandizement instead of going in for self-effacing, self-forgetting, humble, menial, hard, distasteful service." Am I like that?

* * *

Do I realize that the things of time are not so valuable as the things of eternity? Do I know that when I have God I have everything? Is my faith equal to any emergency? Do I have the deep faith that is the Christian foundation of living? Do I turn to that faith naturally as I face life in the world?

Do I think of my life as a stewardship? Stewardship implies that time, talents, substance, whatever I am or have is regarded as a trust, for the use of which I shall be called to account. God is constantly giving to me. What am I giving to Him? Am I loyal, loving, a Spirit of His Spirit?

The urgent need of today is a revival of spiritual life and a quickened interest in those things that endure. It

was in an age very much like the one we live in that Christ said, "Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

If Christ were to return to the world in person today He would probably utter that same invitation. He would say, "You are restless and ill at ease. You are worried, and burdened, and wearied. The cares and problems of life are too much for you. Come to Me. Accept my way of life. Adopt the principles which I expound, and you will find ease and satisfaction."

* * *

When you are in right relationship to God, all else will adjust itself correctly and harmoniously. The precise counsel is to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all vital things will be added unto you. That is to say, when you sincerely desire divine truth, and seek it with all your heart, it will answer all your questions, solve your problems, and satisfy your desires. It will lead you from victory to victory on the path of light and truth.

When your life is in strict conformity to the divine plan, you will want only what God wants you to have; therefore, you cannot possibly be disappointed. God is love, hence He wants you to have the wonderful things He has created for you, all of which are for your present good and ultimate progress into His Kingdom. His will for you is your own divine unfoldment.

The demands of the spiritual life are simple, but implicit. To be true to your high calling, you must have a heart of humility and gratitude, a spirit of obedience and submission to divine authority, an honest principle of mind which causes you to look to God for guidance and approval, and a sincere desire to live a holy and devout life.

* * *

Therefore, it is wisdom to ask ourselves often, "What progress am I making in spiritual development," and to look earnestly into the inner depths of soul, mind and spirit for the answer. Rejoice in progress for you are building eternal treasures in Spirit and in truth.

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THE BELATED GIFT

By Rose H. Anderson

It was at the hour of dusk in the land of Abraham, the hour the littlest shepherd liked the best of all the day. Walking lightly among his father's sheep, sometimes carrying the small ones in his arms as they patiently trudged the long way home. And the stories they'd have to share with mother following the evening meal! Always she praised the small gifts they'd bring her at eventide; sometimes a dainty blue flower, or an oddly carved piece of rock; or a gay feather from some bird's wing, dropped in his flight. Suddenly remembering, the littlest shepherd ran to his father, asking: "What did you find this day? My hands are empty."

"She will be disappointed, for I found nothing. Perhaps tomorrow our luck will be better."

"Wait, father, did you hear a strange voice, calling?"

The elder shepherd paused and listened, then his face brightened; speaking softly, he said: "Here come strangers, so let us ask them to share our evening meal as our surprise gift for mother. She grows lonely at times."

Tiredly the strangers agreed: "It is indeed kind of you to invite us to your home, for we are so weary. We are fleeing from the wrath of mad Herod. Had you heard the weeping of the women--"

Shocked, the elder shepherd asked: "We are lonely out here for strangers seldom come along these steep paths. What is this about Herod? We have heard naught about him, other than taxes--"

The young father clenched his fists as he tried to make them understand the horror they'd seen and endured. "Herod's decree--all male children under the age of two, slaughtered brutally as though suckling pigs! The heartbreaking weeping of the women--"

The pale face of his wife seemed to glow in the dusk as she softly spoke: "It is but to the mercy of the Father God that we escaped with our young Son, all glory to His Name!"

The elder shepherd exclaimed: "He is not human! Often have I gone hungry, yet I would not trade places with this mad Herod! The punishment that shall be his for this dreadful thing he has brought to pass! I'm glad I live out in this wilderness."

The littlest shepherd approached the woman, seated on a donkey, and asked: "May I see the Child?"

Smiling down upon him, she asked: "Will you wait until we are safely in your house? Even in these hills we have spied the soldiers riding, that is why we have hurried to reach you before dark."

The elder shepherd cautioned: "Then let us move quickly homeward. For we are people of peace. My wife will be glad to have you with us, for she grows lonely, although seldom she complains."

It was only a poor shepherd's hut, but to the young parents it was a true haven of rest. Gaily the shepherd's wife bustled about preparing for their guests, for she had insisted: "You are too weary to travel further this night. Rest here, for surely here, there is safety. It delights my heart to have guests."

The littlest shepherd was out caring for his pets until the meal was ready and the table set. Then he asked: "Now, may I see the Babe?" Gently the young mother answered: "Now he sleeps. Later, my dear."

Following the evening meal, the guests shared with them the news of the outside world, and noticing a lovely piece of strange weaving, the young mother asked: "This is indeed a beautiful piece of weaving. Whoever has done this, has done it as a labor of love, for the coloring is unusual."

The shepherd's wife's face glowed with pride as she explained: "Evenings here are long, and my son wished to make a special gift for someone Special, so I taught him how to weave. It has taken him a long time, yet he was so anxious to please, that he learned well." Then calling her son, she asked: "Will you not share your story with these young parents? Also they have a small Child, so the story will please them and I never grow tired hearing it."

The Child lay sleeping on the cot, so the littlest shepherd asked: "Don't you think it is a bit cool? Hadn't I best cover Him with this robe? I'm certain the other One wouldn't mind, the One I made this gift for. You see, I just don't know where He is now, but I'll find Him, I feel within my heart, I'll find Him some day."

His mother agreed: "Be gentle, my son, as you lay the cover over Him. Now, tell us the story. We'll be very, very quiet."

The elder shepherd mused: "Neither shall I ever forget the glory of that night! Yet, let our son tell you—"

The littlest shepherd drew a deep breath, a bit flustered at all the attention. Then looking at his father, he asked: "Wasn't the Star most big as the moon? They must have lit thousands of candles in the sky to make such a big Star! And singing! We were so frightened we could not stand! Then a tall white figure seemed to float to earth, and spoke, telling us not to be afraid. For in the City of David had been born the Christ Child, Son of the Father God. His love Gift, sent to bring peace and joy. In the City of Bethlehem, so it was said, in a Manger, lay the Child."

The young parents smiled mistily at one another, as though sharing in some great joyous secret. The littlest shepherd again began: "My father must stay with the sheep, so he let me go with the other shepherds to see this wondrous Child." Then mournfully, he added: "I had no gift to bring Him, so I told myself that such a lovely Babe with such poor parents, not even having a home, must have a gift. So when I find Him, I'll give Him this robe for it is my hand's work, just for Him."

The young mother smiled down upon him as she asked: "You've never found Him yet? He'd be most proud of such a wondrous gift."

Before he could answer, a loud pounding came to the door as a loud stern voice demanded: "Open in the name of Caesar!"

The mother gasped: "The soldiers are after my Son! Oh, Father God, protect Him with Thy love!"

Quickly the little shepherd ran to the cot and tenderly

moving the Babe over, he crawled down beside Him, pulling the brightly colored woven robe over them. The young mother breathed a prayer of relief, for her Son was safely covered. The soldier rudely pushed his way into the room, to demand: "How many children do you have?; their ages--"

Calmly the elder shepherd spoke: "The gracious Father God has blest us with this one son: he is at the age of ten, although so little for his age, for many times we have had to go hungry. Taxes are so high, how can we eat?"

Quickly his wife spoke: "Please do not disturb him--he's been helping his father all day with the sheep and is so tired; behold how sweetly he sleeps as though the angels are whispering to him."

Making a sound of derision, the soldier demanded: "Only one child. I've come all this way over these steep hills for naught! Give me to eat and I'll be on my way."

Quickly a basket was prepared for him, dark bread and other food that only the poor would eat. The soldier snorted when he saw it: "No wonder you all look half-starved. Not fit for a pig to eat." Muttering to himself, he stormed out.

Not until they could hear the clatter of his horse as they left the valley did the littlest shepherd dare move. Then, he gently got out and smoothed the cover back over the sleeping Child. The Child's mother came to him, and placing her arms about him, she spoke: "This day has proven your love. Your gift for my Son I accept with deep joy and thanksgiving, from you and it has saved my Son's life."

The joy was almost more than the littlest shepherd could bear. Yet he whispered: "I knew I'd find Him some day to give Him my gift. My heart told me so." (The end)

-oooOooo-

"He who loves with purity considers not the gift of the lover, but the love of the giver."

--Thomas á Kempis.

-oooOooo-

G I V E

Give, give, give, give!
Give of your substance, freely give.
Give to the sick, give to the poor,
Give to the stranger at your door.

Give from the fulness of your heart,
Give a kind thought, give a fresh start.
Give to the sorrowful, weary and worn,
Give a new lift to someone forlorn.

Give a fine gift of sweet surprise,
Give to bring luster to someone's eyes.
Give without stint, give of your best,
Give of your treasure, give with a zest.

Give with a loving word and smile,
Give from your purse a gift worth while.
Give to a neighbor, give good cheer,
Give of yourself every day in the year.

Give to the lonely, give to the blind,
Give with a generous hand and mind.
Give to brighten a shut-in life,
Give to bring respite from daily strife.

Give of your counsel, give of your praise,
Give to make this happiest of days.
Give of your peace and good will to men,
Give and still give, again and again.

Give of your faith in God supreme,
Give and make giving your constant theme.
Give to the utmost, though thanks be few,
Give since Christ gave all for you.

--Grenville Kleiser.

-oooOooo-

WE COUNT OUR BLESSINGS

The Trustees of Fellowship in Prayer are deeply grateful for the many blessings received during the past two years, and heartfelt thanks again are extended to all who have rendered valuable assistance.

Especially:--

Those who have seen the vital need for united prayer and closer cooperation between different religions, and have given of their means, talents, services and prayers.

Those listed below who have so graciously donated the following books to the library of Fellowship in Prayer:
STEPPING STONES TO FREEDOM from its consecrated and devoted author - Harry Halsey Starrett.
THE HOLY KORAN and THE RELIGION OF ISLAM from The Washington Mosque Foundation.
INSPIRATION and IDEALS By Grenville Kleiser who inscribes the inspiration for the production of this wonderful guide to daily living to his ideal wife, Elizabeth.
HOBBY HOUSE IDEAS from the author, Celia M. Wright, who has made a success of many hobbies.
ONE MOMENT PLEASE! By James Keller M. M., from The Christophers - a book for daily inspiration and uplift.

Mrs. Helen Dudley Young for the February 1951 cover design so artistically done, and widely appreciated.

Mrs. Celia M. Wright for recognizing Fellowship in Prayer in her radio broadcasts. - - Also newswriters who have cooperated in placing Fellowship in Prayer before the public.

* * -*- * *

The "Christmas Spirit" - A very limited group, consisting of well known people in various walks of life, was invited to submit a short statement on the "Christmas Spirit." All statements received so beautifully emphasize the true meaning of Christmas that they are published in full on the following several pages. The result is a glowing tribute to the Master of Christianity.

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

The Christmas spirit should make us all think of others and particularly of the joy in giving.

--Eleanor Roosevelt
(Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt)

We must keep Christmas. For Christmas is an annual reminder that there is a more excellent way. The message that comes to us from Bethlehem is that love is stronger than hate, is that force must ultimately bow before gentleness, is that unselfishness is better than greed, is that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

We dare not drop the Christmas Festival. After all it is not the Prince of Peace who has failed the world; it is we who have failed the Prince of Peace. It is not that Christianity has been tried and found wanting; it has been found wanting and not tried. To those who contend that it has been in the world for 1900 years and the world is no better, is harassed by the same fears, plagued by the same miseries, menanced by the same dangers as when the Caesars ruled, we reply--How can a doctor help when one does not take his medicine? How can Christ save when men will not accept him as Savior? Mr. H. G. Wells is right: "The Galilean is still too great for our hard hearts." Christmas should arouse in us a deep repentance for the sin in which all of us share, the sin of complacency, of greed, of self-seeking, of blindness to the fact that peace, happiness, security are possible only when we realize and practise the age-old truth that no man, no class, no nation can live to itself.

--Robert J. McCracken
(Pastor - The Riverside Church)

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Let's all adore the King of Peace and pray for the restoration of everything in Christ.

--Paul Yu-Pin
(Archbishop of Nanking)

It is most important in this age of anxiety that the Jewish Festival of Hanukkah and the Christian Festival of Christmas almost exactly coincide in date. This I regard as sign and symbol of the important tasks which face Christian and Jew in the years ahead. The Judeo-Christian tradition of love, which we share alike, is endangered by war and rumors of war, by intolerance, cynicism and doubt. May this season re-stimulate the Christian to implement the glad tidings of Christmas, "Peace on earth, good will to men:" and may this season re-stimulate the Jew to implement the glad tidings of Hanukkah, "Not by might and not by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord." Thus, hand-in-hand Christian and Jew may labor together for the building of God's Kingdom on earth.

--Edward E. Klein
(Rabbi - Stephen Wise Free Synagogue)

The Christmas spirit and sense of service should not be only for one day in the year, but a perennial and perpetual expression of the love in your heart. If the spiritual good cheer of Christmas Day were generally manifested throughout the year it would transform mankind. Love is still the greatest thing in the world, and the world grows better in proportion that love increases. Do not wait for others to practise the golden rule, but diligently apply it in your own daily life. Like the stars that are beautiful because of what they are, and not because of what they do, so you can make your life a beneficent influence to others by developing a continual spirit of Christmas within your mind and heart.

--Grenville Kleiser
(Author and Poet)

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Christmas is a fitting time for self-examination. Should not each of us determine to think and act with less selfishness and more of the Christmas Spirit?

--Sterling Morton
(Investments and Finance)

There would be no spirit of Christmas if there had not been first the fact of Christmas. The spirit of giving arises from the fact that God gave Himself on Christmas Day. Our faith is rooted in a fact. It expresses itself in a spirit.

--Samuel M. Shoemaker
(Rector - Calvary Episcopal Church)

To those whose hearts are at peace with our God and our brothers -- to all men of good will -- the star that guided the Wise Men to the Prince of Peace still shines through the dark clouds as a beacon to a world now seething with hatred.

May Christ, the Light of the world, guide the rulers of this earth to find peace as once the star of Bethlehem led the Wise Men to the Prince of Peace.

I feel that the message of the first Christmas -- Glory to God and then peace to men of good will -- is most imperative today. Although the star of Bethlehem may be blurred by the smoke of this atomic age, it still stands as a beacon that leads men of good will to the Prince of Peace.

--James A. Farley
(Former Postmaster General)

The Christmas Spirit is best described as a love that overflows. We love our fellowmen so much that our love overflows in terms of service--a service that does not consider our time or our strength nor our fellowman's color - race - clan or creed.

--Ernest R. Palen
(Pastor - The Middle Collegiate Church)

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

By Harry Halsey Starrett

True giving is true living and true living is the fulfillment of The Law and the salvation of the world, Giving is the way to a full, rich, radiant, fruitful, successful and joyous life.

Giving seems to be the real purpose of Creation; giving is the language of the universe; The Creator speaks to us through His handiwork. Creation was, is now and ever shall be, a constant, ceaseless, limitless pouring out of good for the good of all. The sun shines and the rains fall upon the just and the unjust alike; the trees give shade and shelter to whosoever will repose beneath their protecting arms; the flowers give of their beauty and fragrance to all alike; the birds give forth the sweet melody of their song for the enjoyment of all and the babbling brook gives of its pure, sweet, refreshing waters to all who will partake of it, whether black or white; saint or sinner; rich or poor; without money and without price. How then, does man justify his claim to ownership of that which he possesses? Does not everything in God's glorious Creation belong to all mankind? Are we not just the custodians of that which has come to us, by the grace of God? This trusteeship is a great responsibility, but withal it is a Divine privilege; a golden opportunity to serve our fellowmen. The way we administer this trusteeship determines our true character and the way we respond to the challenge of opportunity to help others, is the measure of our spiritual growth and the determiner of our destiny.

The story of Christmas is the story of giving, in its highest and purest form - "For God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." By this compassionate outpouring of Himself, The Father clearly reveals that Love is the motivating force of His Creation

and thereby teaching us that Love should be the motif of all our giving.

The lesson of the manger is the lesson of humility, meekness, lowliness and of simplicity--the fundamentals of right living; the A. B. C.'s of true religion; the basic qualities of true greatness; the cardinal virtues of a sublime life; the first fruits of spiritual awakening; the very essence of Mastership. Let him who would be master first become a "Good and faithful servant" for Mastership is lowliness enthroned. Christ is the transcendental example of this simple truth.

Let us learn well the lesson of giving and receiving. "It is more blessed to give than to receive" yet, for one to give, someone must receive. It, therefore, behooves each of us to be a gracious receiver, as well as a gracious giver, thereby helping those who would be gracious givers, to fulfill The Law. And so, receiving is, itself, a form of giving - it completes the circle and makes giving continuous. "Freely ye give, freely ye receive."

When giving replaces getting; when faith replaces fear; when love replaces hate; when forgiveness replaces vindictiveness; when altruism replaces egoism, in the hearts and lives of men; when the lower self surrenders to The Higher Self; when mortal mind is swallowed up by and lost in Divine Mind; when Truth gains mastery over error; when the finite recognizes and becomes one with The Infinite, then, and not until then, will "Peace on earth, good-will toward men" become a glorious reality rather than just an unrealized dream; just an unfulfilled hope.

And now may "The Peace of God which passeth all understanding, fill our hearts and minds and abide with us always, even unto the end."

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

By Swami Brahmamayananda

The following lines express how a true Hindu looks upon Christmas.

There are millions of Hindus in India who accept Christ as a great prophet or Incarnation of God. At the headquarters of the Ramakrishna Order at Belur, India, and at its many different centers all over the world, Christmas is observed with appropriate worship. Christ was an oriental. All the great religions of the world have come from the Orient, and the Hindus think they understand the true message of Christ very well.

The spirit of Christmas is generally expressed in the words: "On earth peace and goodwill among men." Thoughts of peace and goodwill fill every true Christian heart at Christmas. Yet alas, these thoughts hardly take deep root and produce the sort of action that is necessary to bring and maintain peace in individual and national life. The reason is that the essential message of Christ is rarely understood.

There is a deep and widespread longing for peace today all over the world. In fact, such a deep and widespread longing was never before witnessed in the past. Yet we seem to be drifting in exorably into the cataclysm of a Third World War which may very well eclipse civilization for centuries. The responsibility for such a cataclysm, if it comes, will lie squarely on the shoulders of the Christian nations; for theirs is the power and wealth of the world. If they have the necessary inspiration for goodwill, they can bring peace on earth.

But that goodwill is either absent or crippled. And where it exists it lacks the strength and drive which alone can make it effective. It lacks a basis in the essence of Christianity, which is contained in the Sermon on the Mount. The desire for peace and goodwill can be realized only on the basis of the philosophy of life preached in the Sermon.

What is the underlying philosophy of the Sermon on the

Mount? As the Hindus see it, it is, in one word, renunciation. When we say that renunciation is the goal of life, it does not mean that all at once we should put on sack-cloth and cover ourselves with ashes. It means that the final goal of life is God, and that life must be a progressive realization of the divine aim. Conflicts and wars come because men attach the highest value to material pleasure and power, and regard religion as helping to make worldly life comfortable. This is a negation of the true spirit of Christianity and of all true religion. We are apt to judge religion solely from the point of view of material welfare. Unfortunately this is nothing but materialism, and materialism cannot but breed competition, conflict, and disaster. It is only in the perspective of the eternal that life acquires real worth, and it is only when we make God, or renunciation of earthly life, our final goal that we can subordinate power and competition to a higher spiritual aim. Without such an aim no peace is possible either in individual or in collective life; for in the final analysis it is in the hearts of men that peace has its lasting and true foundation. There is no peace in hearts where God does not dwell.

Christmas should remind us of the divine aim of life, the pursuit of which alone will bring peace and goodwill, the heart's desire of the common man everywhere.

* * * * *

These all having seen the beauty of the Spirit of Christmas have, through faith, united to proclaim the potential power of the One born in Bethlehem of Judea. Would that the fullness of that power were released through the faith and actions of all His followers. Those participating in this Christmas testimonial will receive a reward far transcending that which mere words can convey.

-oooOooo-

A 10 MINUTE DEVOTION - before sleeping

ADORATION - (1) minute

Meditate upon the GREATNESS OF GOD if only to repeat--"I KNOW THEE AS MY HEAVENLY FATHER AND CREATOR OF THE WORLD. HELP ME TO EXPERIENCE THY GREATNESS AND MY OWN SMALLNESS."

THANKSGIVING - (2) minutes

List mentally the things you are thankful for. In each case, say, - "Thank you, Father" as sincerely as you possibly can.

1. Gift of Christ.
2. Good health.
3. Beauty of nature.
4. Friends.
5. The Church.
6. Other blessings.

FORGIVENESS - (2) minutes

THINK ABOUT:
1. Sins of the day.
2. Past sins.

PETITION - (4) minutes

1. Ask for any special needs, adding each time-- . . . "if it be Thy Will."

2. List individuals you wish aided. (If you don't know their special needs, pray simply, "Lord, HELP THEM TO KNOW THEE MORE FULLY AND HELP ME TO HELP THEM.")

3. Make up a special list of people you do not "like." Make a special effort to pray for these people.

Finally . . .
Say the Lord's Prayer, slowly and thoughtfully. (1) minute.

Memorize:
"A Time For Prayer"
A. T. F. P.

--By Theodore Simonson.

-oooOooo-

THE CHRISTOPHERS

The Christopher movement is a Catholic movement. It is deeply concerned, for time and for eternity, with the welfare of ALL men - even those hostile to religion. In loving solicitude we include ALL and exclude NONE. Each is a child of God through creation and is a potential citizen of heaven. Each, doing even one thing for Him, can start to be a Christopher, a Christ-bearer.

Less than one per cent of humanity have caused most of the world's recent major troubles. This handful - no matter what their labels - shares a militant hatred for the basic truth upon which this nation and all Christian civilization is founded (and without which they cannot endure): that each and every human being shares the common Fatherhood of God, deriving his rights from God, not from the State.

Driven by such hatred, those few become missioners of evil, striving to reach the MAN, not merely the FEW. They usually get into one of the six spheres that touch the lives of all people the world over: (1) education, (2) government, (3) writing, (newspapers, magazines, books, radio, motion pictures, television), (4) labor management, (5) social service, and (6) library work.

The aim of the Christophers is to get another one per cent to go as apostolic workers - as Christophers, or Christ-bearers - into the same six fields, and strive with missionary zeal to RESTORE the fundamental truth which the other 1% are working furiously to ELIMINATE.

It is far more important to get workers of good IN than it is to get workers of evil OUT, essential as the latter is. Positive, constructive action is needed. Little is accomplished by complaining and criticizing: "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

The Christopher movement has no chapters, no committees, no meetings. There are no memberships, no dues. Rather than have a large number of people "paying dues and doing nothing," we have, from the beginning, set out to encourage tens of thousands to "do something and pay nothing."

For the material means to carry on the Christopher program our motto is the simple one inscribed on every American coin: "In God We Trust."

God willing, this tiny spark may one day burst into a flame. Fortunately we have to manufacture nothing; our product is made in heaven. All we have to do is become distributors of a changeless Truth in our changing times, ever conscious that there can be neither peace nor freedom without the Truth which "will make you free."

(The foregoing is a summary of the Christopher work as told by Father Keller in his book entitled, "One Moment Please!")

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THE HEBREW FESTIVAL OF HANUKKAH

We join with all people of good will in extending greetings to those who celebrate "The Festival of Lights" (Hanukkah).

This Jewish Feast of the Dedication, instituted by Judas Maccabaeus, his brothers, and the whole congregation of Israel in 165 B. C. was to commemorate the dedication of the new altar set up at the purification of the temple of Jerusalem to replace the altar which had been polluted by Antiochus Epiphanes.

The feast is held for eight days (beginning with the twenty-fifth day of Kislov, - corresponding to December), and is celebrated everywhere, chiefly as a festival of lights, by the Jews.

It is unfortunate that the welfare of the Jewish people for approximately 400 years B. C. is not more commonly known. Historically it is an exciting period and depicts the development of a race freed from division into tribes, into one people. Bible commentators give thrilling accounts of these variable years, and it is well worth the time to delve into the history of Judaism during those years.

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FELLOWSHIP ADVISORS

In the past two years we have experienced a heart warming response from a group of devoted people around the world who have contributed largely to the furtherance of a spiritual regeneration through various means.

The Trustees of Fellowship in Prayer felt the need of cementing this group into a closer bond of unity and passed a resolution authorizing the formation of what is known as "Fellowship Advisors."

We are therefore gratified to announce that the following have accepted the invitation to become advisors. They are listed in zones which, to a degree, indicates the widespread influence of Fellowship in Prayer. As channels open in other countries, and as the ties grow stronger in America, others will be invited into this fellowship.

Eastern Zone:

Mrs. Arthur O. Choate
Mrs. Leland Eggleston Cofer (and Southern)
Emilie Lady Coote (" England)
Miss Florence Dustin (" Southern)
Miss Lillian F. Dustin (" Southern)
Mr. Herman Hovemann
Mrs. William Hung
Mr. Grenville Kleiser
Miss Olga M. Lamkert
Mrs. Thomas C. Taylor
Mrs. Florence E. Wilcox

Southern Zone:

Miss Frances Hungerford-Lusby
(as well as those listed above)

Central Zone:

Mrs. Frank A. Baker
Mrs. A. M. Davison
Mrs. Charles A. Lastner
Mr. Harry Halsey Starrett

Western Zone:

Mrs. F. J. Crisp
Rev. Roy Wallace Thomas
Mrs. J. H. Titus
Mrs. Helen Dudley Young

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A P P R E C I A T I O N

The wide distribution of Dr. Robert Wells Youngs' sermon with the October issue of FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER brought instant approval from far and near. Such timely discussions must be iterated and reiterated if religion is to meet the world's present needs. We rejoice in the opportunity of being a channel for spreading this highly inspired sermon.

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"WHAT WE ALL BELIEVE" - This 55-page pamphlet written by Ruth Cranston has just been published by the Western Personnel Institute. It is an abridgment of the author's splendid book - WORLD FAITH - published in 1949, and is designed for universal use by all people who wish to understand each other's philosophy of life. Copies (25¢ each) may be obtained at our office - 22 East 29th Street, New York City.

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CHRISTMAS CHIMES

"Sometimes men pause and listen to chimes playing. They may be high up in the air and concealed. Yet are they sweet, clear, and golden. Their melody suggests more than words can say. And do not our hearts, also, have a set of invisible chimes? ** They are the Christmas Bells of the Soul. ** Too often silent and unheard, yet at Yule-tide, they are awakened to music. They are the Christmas Chimes that keep playing on and on in the Soul of Man. One is named PEACE: one is GOOD-WILL; one is FAITH: one is HOPE: and lo! sometimes they all mysteriously melt into one strain. Then do they sweetly play the antique, angel-old tune of LOVE. * * * May the Christmas Chimes be set a-playing in your own Heart, O Friend! As their music is contagious, it may steal into the hearts of your loved ones and friends, and brothers the world around."

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NOTICES

Calls from nearby areas for presenting the aims and purposes of Fellowship in Prayer have been filled by the Executive Secretary. These opportunities, of course, are always welcome.

It is impossible to acknowledge all of the expressions of congratulations received regarding the October issue of FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER. It was a source of gratification to present a full statement covering the Baha'i faith and its growth throughout the world.

This issue of FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER has been enlarged by four pages to include articles in direct keeping with the Christmas Spirit. It is fitting that we pause to pay tribute to the faith of nearly seven hundred million nominal Christians in the world. Even in its woefully divided state it has wrought an incomparable influence on mankind.

The invitation to ALL believers in God to affiliate with Fellowship in Prayer is repeated, as well as the request to send in names of friends who might be interested in united prayer to whom literature may be mailed.

Minimum subscription of the bi-monthly publication is $2.00 per annum. This barely covers the cost of printing and mailing, not to mention expanding the program. Those who have received bountifully from God might well afford, and be inspired to help save mankind.

OFFICERS

FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER, INC.

Dr. William Hung, President J. E. Thompson, Treasurer
Sydney D. Maddock, Vice Pres. Kathryn G. Brown, Secretary
C. A. Evans, Executive Sec'y & Assoc. Treasurer

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FAREWELL, FAREWELL, OLD YEAR

The hungry north wind whines
  Around the barred door,
And through the proud old pines
  Is heard its ruthless roar:
  With wailing waves that pour
Their plaint upon the ear,
  It echoes o'er and o'er,
"Farewell, farewell, old year!"

Snow hides the leafless vines
  That fleecy blossoms bore,
In long and lonely lines
  Beside the streamlet's shore,
  For suns that beam no more
Above earth's frozen bier
  The tall bare trees implore,
"Farewell, farewell, old year!"

Yet while warm firelight shines
  On heads both young and hoar,
Although no heart divines
  What fate may have in store,
  Mourn not for days of yore,
But sing with merry cheer
  As blithe as birds that soar,
"Farewell, farewell, old year!"

ENVOY.

O friend, as heretofore,
  In spring dark skies will clear,
Buds burst to bloom once more:
  "Farewell, farewell, old year!"

--Clinton Scollard.